

## INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT: Radio Monitoring Station in  
Sremska Mitrovica Prison

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. One building in the Sremska Mitrovica prison is devoted entirely to a radio monitoring and translating unit whose personnel is entirely composed of prisoners. About forty in all, and of different nationalities, the prisoners are able to monitor and translate 14 languages.
2. Until 2 November 1950 the monitoring service was directed by the Tanjug News Agency, but since that time Tanjug personnel have been replaced by UDB members. Although the service continues to operate under the Tanjug title, it is now controlled by the Yugoslav Ministry of the Interior. The monitoring and translating work in the prison is directed by three UDB officers, including a chief who is known as Franjo.
3. There are separate rooms for the monitoring of English, Italian, German, French, and Russian broadcasts, while less important languages are often monitored in the same room. Foreign broadcasts are monitored twenty hours a day, the monitors working on shifts of ten hours each. The receivers are equipped with both loudspeakers and headphones, and there is an ample number of recording machines.
4. Until a short time ago the monitored news was mimeographed in the prison, and 60 copies were sent to Belgrade by a courier who left each morning on the 4:15 train. Now, however, one master copy is made and sent to Belgrade to be printed. No prisoners are engaged in the editing of the bulletin which is done by professional newspapermen.
5. The translating section translates articles from foreign newspapers and other publications as directed by the authorities. On 1 June 1950 a new section was created to translate English, Italian, and French military publications. As a rule these publications are of a technical nature dealing with the operation and maintenance of a variety of foreign weapons and military equipment. It is believed that this is the only unit of its kind in Yugoslavia.
6. A great effort is made to maintain security in the monitoring and translating service. Most of the prisoners engaged in the project are serving long prison sentences, and it is rumored that that is the reason for their being assigned to this work. When one of the prisoners so employed is released

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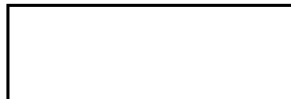
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from confinement, he is forced to sign statements to the effect that he will not discuss his former work with anyone under threats of dire consequences to himself or his family.

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